



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tule Lake Unit,
World War II
Valor in the Pacific
National Monument

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Tule Lake Unit, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Leadership Summit Held at Tule Lake Unit

TULELAKE, California— On June 10-13, 2013 the *Passing the Legacy Down: Youth Interpretations of Confinement Sites in the Western United States*, also known as *Bridging Communities: Preserving the Legacy Program* engaged in four day Youth Leadership Summit at the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. Through interactive workshops, participants engaged in a variety of topics such as intersections of identity, American Muslim and Japanese American history, civil rights and activism. The National Park Service provided the students with a history and tour of the site. A culmination activity followed, where participants shared their reflections on the Segregation Center, as seen through the eyes of their generation. Participants also conducted a service-learning project led by the National Park Service that focused on the preservation of the Tule Lake story through various forms of on-site resource documentation.

The Bridging Communities Program seeks to connect Japanese American and American Muslim youth by synthesizing the differences and commonalities that bind us together. It was established as a proactive response from JACL (Japanese American Citizens League), NCRR (Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress), the Tule Lake Committee, and CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations) to a number of incidents of hate and intolerance incurred by the Muslim American community in the long aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Recognizing the similarities that Japanese Americans faced in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor ultimately resulting in Japanese American incarceration, Bridging Communities was meant to build solidarity and partnership between these two communities.

This program was made possible by a Japanese American Confinement Sites grant administered by the National Park Service.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

The Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, established in 2008, is a nationally significant site dedicated to telling the story of the cost of war on the home front and the lasting effects of the unjust incarceration of over 29,000 US citizens and long-term residents of Japanese ancestry at the Tule Lake Segregation Center.

For more information about visiting the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, call 530-260-0537, email tule_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/tule.

For more information on the Japanese American Citizens League, visit www.jacl.org.

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